

Central Ideas

'Central ideas do not have to be worded in a complex way, nor do they have to be written in language appropriate to the age of the student. The central ideas may need to be unpacked by the teachers / students. By the end of a unit of inquiry, it is reasonable to expect students to be articulate about the central idea and to demonstrate their understanding in their own words.'

Guidelines for developing a school's programme of inquiry

Checklist for Central Idea

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| 1. Does it link with the transdisciplinary theme? | Yes / No |
| 2. Is the central idea a big idea and not just a fact? | Yes / No |
| 3. Is it written as a broad statement? | Yes / No |
| 4. Would it be worth studying anywhere in the world? | Yes / No |
| 5. Can it be understood on different levels? | Yes / No |
| 6. Will the students be able to show their understanding in different ways? | Yes / No |
| 7. Will it help students to understand the world they live in? | Yes / No |
| 8. Will it require a range of transdisciplinary skills and knowledge? | Yes / No |
| 9. Does it help students to develop a deeper understanding of the underlying concepts? | Yes / No |
| 10. Will students be able to do something (take action) because they have a better understanding of this idea? | Yes / No |
| 11. Does the central idea answer the questions of 'how' and 'why'? | Yes / No |